

Appl. No. 10/051,418
Amdt. dated September 24, 2003
Reply to Office action of April 24, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 24, 2003, Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and claim 5 was allowed. The indication of allowability of claim 2, and the allowance of claim 5 is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent format to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action.

The Examiner stated that the application currently names joint inventors and that Applicant should point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made. Applicant's records show that the application names only one inventor - Joseph Tourne of Helmond Netherlands. Thus, Applicant's attorney does not understand the basis for this request, although Applicant's records could be incomplete. It would be helpful if the Examiner would send Applicant's attorney a copy of the document in the file indicating that joint inventorship exists. Upon receipt of this document, Applicant will determine the dates of invention, etc.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bach (U.S. Patent No. 6,402,395) in view of Durbin (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,130). Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been cancelled herein to expedite the allowance of claims 2 and 5. To preserve Applicant's

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rights to pursue a continuation application, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the statements made by the Examiner in the Office Action.

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SUMMARY

The foregoing is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action dated April 24, 2003. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, Applicant's attorney would welcome a telephonic interview with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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